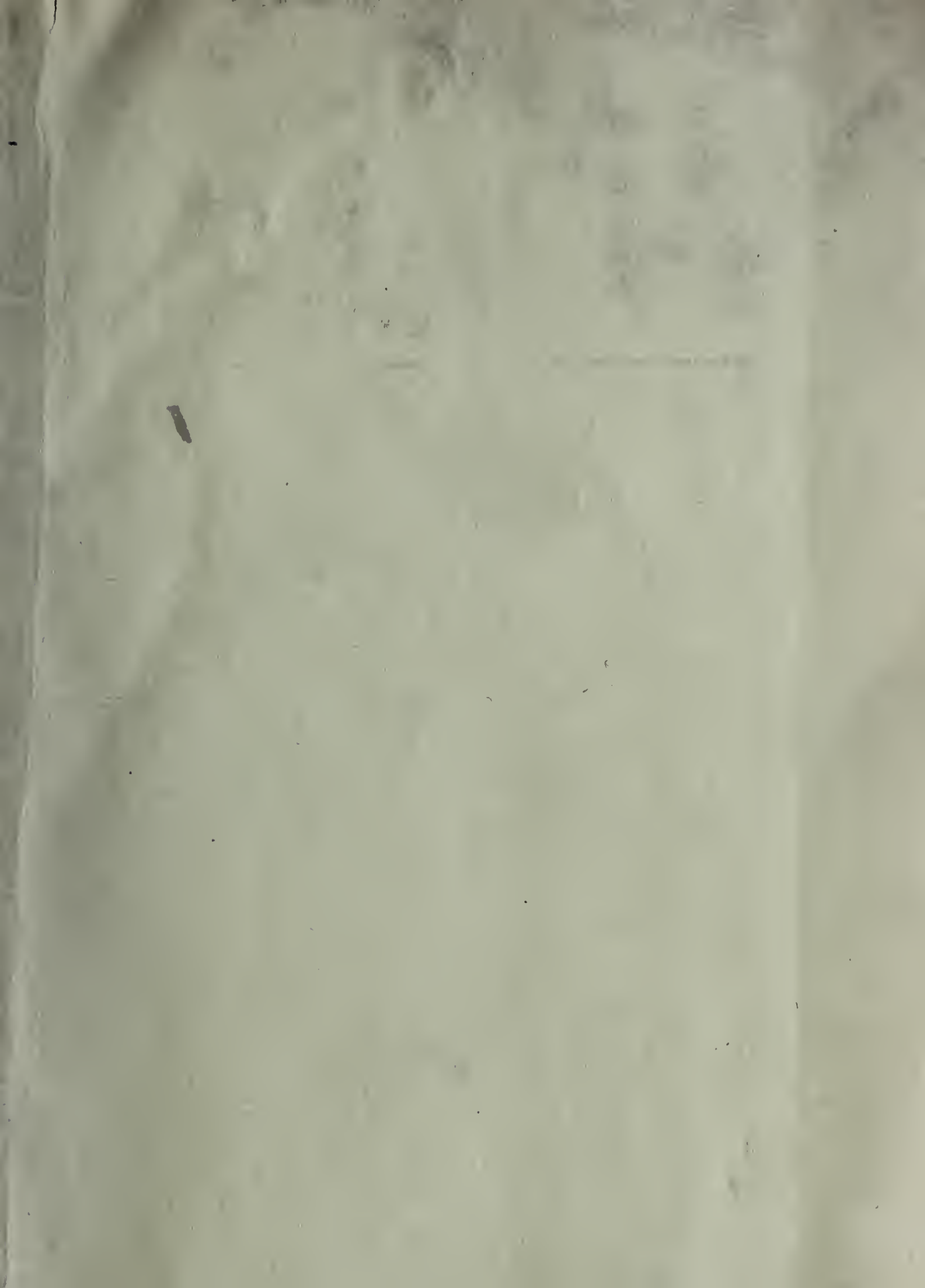


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family. We visited the place where the victims of savage cruelty were buried. A bountiful crop of corn is growing where their graves were. As long as the land was owned by descendants of the family the graves were marked. For a number of years the land has been owned by Mr. Hummel, since which time the land has been farmed until every vestige of the graves has been destroyed. The place where their remains are mouldering with the soil is under a large tree, about three hundred yards south of the old Kreeger store property. Some effort should be made to have the spot where these murdered pioneers are buried, suitably marked.

The following account of the massacre, we publish from J. F. McGinnis' History of the West Branch Valley:

On the day of the murder Stuck and three of his sons, were occupied clearing a field in a deep narrow valley, about a mile from the house; when a scalping party of about thirty Indians was drawn by the sound of the axes to the edge of the hill overlooking the field where they were at work. Seeing that there were four stout men armed and on their guard, they passed on without molesting them, proceeded to the house. In a field near the dwelling they found another son plowing, whom one of the party shot and scalped, while the rest of the party entered the house, where they found none but Stuck's wife, and a daughter-in-law recently married. The mother, a strong and courageous woman, escaped from the house, and defended herself with a canoe pole, as she retreated towards the field where her husband was. She was however, killed by a tomahawk, thrown by one of the pursuers, and scalped. The house was hastily plundered, and the young woman carried off. It appeared by the footprints, that her strength failed from terror, in a newly ploughed field through which they were leading her, when two Indians took her between them, and supported her until they got into the woods, about one hundred yards from the house, where they killed and scalped her.

When Stuck returned home, he found his house plundered, his son lying on his face in the field, dead—the young woman in the woods, inhumanly butchered, and his wife, with a deep wound

in her forehead, lying on her back, with the canoe pole by her side.—What a sight for the husband and father!

The country was aroused by the outrage and Grove, Pence and Stroh, experienced Indian fighters, followed the trail into the State of New York, and coming up with them one night, made the attack upon the camp when the Indians were asleep and killed a number of them, the rest fled in terror and escaped.

From,

Times
Scranton Pa.

Date,

Dec. 13 1894

THE Selinsgrove Tribune wants Miss Mary Snyder of that place, to keep the cows off the grave of her grandfather, Governor Snyder. Can it be possible that the grave of a governor of Pennsylvania is so neglected that the gentle and the pensive cow browses on it? Here is an opportunity for Representative Farr to back a bill in the legislature making an appropriation for a monument to mark the grave of this sturdy and honest Pennsylvania dutchman who served his state well.

From,

Post

Middleburgh Pa.

Date,

July 25 1895

Swinefordstown of York.

The Old Washington House opposite the Court House, on the Square is undergoing repairs. County Treasurer Seebold has an eye to business and he is putting in an entirely new front and side, and an excellent porch which will serve as a promenade for tired guests.

This is a famous place. It is per-

alfant.

From. Record
Greensburg Pa.
Date. Sept. 26/-92

A HERO OF TWO WARS.

The Man Who Raised the First American
Flag in Mexico.

Editor of RECORD

It is not generally known that the first veteran of the great Rebellion of 1861-5 is still living, and that he resides in Chapman, Snyder county, Pa. There is more history connected with this veteran than we have time and space to note, but we will hurriedly mention a few, and which is thought by the public, to be the most interesting. Gen. E. C. Williams was born in Philadelphia, 73 years ago of Scotch parents, and educated in the public schools of his native city. When he reached the age required, he became a member of a company of militia, and when the Philadelphia and Kensington riots, of 1844, broke out, he was first and foremost in quelling the disturbance. When the call for troops was issued for men to participate in the Mexican conflict, Williams raised a company called the "Cameron Guards," and presented the roll to Governor Shunk. The men were accepted and the company marched to the front. They set sail for Lobos Island, Gulf of Mexico. After about forty days voyage, they landed, but were not permitted to go ashore on account of many cases of small-pox among their number. As soon as they were sufficiently recovered the company began its march toward the City of Mexico. They had a number of skirmishes with the enemy, but the blue coats fought bravely and came out victorious each time.

The principal feature of this campaign for Williams took place at Chapultepec when the fighting was terrific. Williams, with firm determination, raised the first American flag on the citadel and kept it flying there until General Scott rode up the causeway. Others have tried to claim this distinction but Williams holds the proof that the honor belongs to him. He served through the entire war and on his return brought with him the old flag and presented it to Gov. Curtin, who, owing to the part it took in the conflict, had it encased in a neat frame and to-day it can be seen among his war relics. When the call for troops was issued in 1861, Governor Curtin directed General Williams (who had been commissioned Brigadier General of Dauphin county) to organize a force for the service. His date of enlistment shows

that he is the first volunteer of the
is: "First vol-

tered in the United States service in the late rebellion on the 15th day of April, 1861, in the Executive chamber at Harrisburg, Pa., between the hours of 9 and 10 a. m., by Captain S. G. Simmons, U. S. A., in the presence of Governor Curtin and all the heads of the departments. He was mustered over two days before the Logan Guards or any of the other first five companies." He at once formed Camp Curtin and men from all sections came in. The name of this camp still remains fresh in the minds of the old veterans.

The old general was in Washington and took his place in the ranks of the great parade on the 20th inst. During his stay he visited the Senate chamber and gazed with pleasure on the painting in the corridor "The Storming of Chapultepec."

He moved to Chapman and where he has resided for twenty years, during which time he has been extensively engaged in the mercantile business and postmaster of the village. He is in the 73rd year of his age.

EDWARD E. DUCK,

SELINGSGROVE, PA, Sept. 25, 1892.

From, Tribune
Selling Grove Pa.
Date, Sept. 21/1893,

AN HISTORIC SPOT.

A Visit to the Place where the
Members of the Stuck Family
who were Killed by Indians in
1781 were Buried.

On Wednesday of last week, in company with M. S. Schroyer, F. B. Ulrich, John T. Mark and Geo. W. VonNeida, we visited the place made memorable in the early annals of our country by the massacre of three members of the Stuck family by Indians. The place where this sad tragedy occurred is in Middlecreek tp., this county, about one mile north-east of Meiser Station on the Sunbury and Lewistown Railroad. The house in which the two women were when the attack commenced has been torn down for a number of years, but traces of its locations are still distinct.

We had for our guide Mr. Samuel Eck, a linneal descendant of this

the lower end of the marsh. The contractor was one Hugh Brady, an Irishman, fond of whiskey and ever ready to assert his authority by means of a pick handle. Probably the only person living in your town who worked on the job, is my old friend, Mr. Samuel Gemberling, who was then in the language of Brady, a "broth of a b'ye," and drove a cart.

Early in the history of the settlement of the country, a party of men were ambushed in the vicinity of the Maine (Hummel's) mill, by Indians and a number of them were killed. Those escaping did so by means of swimming their horses across the river. A tree near the creek, west of the mill, was split open and a wedge inserted, to mark the engagement. This tree was standing when I last visited the place. The ridge running up on the outside of the trunk, clearly demonstrated at that late day that something unusual had caused the unnatural growth.

The first fire in the old town, was a building which stood up at the upper end of town, where once William Gaugler kept hotel, this was long before the days of fire engines and water works in Selin's Grove.

The first brick house was built in 1817, and is the old App property now owned by Mr. H. P. App.—Several others soon followed.

In those days in addition to the large number of hotels in the town, there were also two distilleries, one was located near the river near the old Hahne property, and the other was built and operated by Mathias App, Sr., and was in the building afterwards used by Eyster & Stitzer as a Foundry. (Kocher's old brick foundry building.—Ed TRIBUNE.) I well remember the last named distillery, for I upon more than one occasion wet my whistle there with the very best the still could produce. Among the ingenious devices to raise the water into the mash tubbs and other places, was a pump operated by a tread power run by two large dogs. This was

the first power of the kind I had ever seen.

These were days when Selin's Grove had some pretty stiff toddy drinkers. I have witnessed Sam Huey, upon many an occasion take a quart measure filled with whiskey and drain it to the dregs before he set it down. There were others whose names I do not want to give who were a close second to poor Sam.

Among the many exciting events which took place in the town and surrounding neighborhood was the election in 1808, of Simon Snyder, a citizen of the town, as Governor of the state. He had long held a prominent place in the affairs of State and local politics. His election was regarded as a matter of local pride, and when the matter of his election was definitely settled, every body took a holiday and the leading citizens of the community called upon the Governor elect to pay their respects. The affair ended in a dance at the hotel which was kept in the building for many years afterwards Mr. John Hall's residence.

During Governor Snyder's service as Chief Magistrate of Pennsylvania, which embraced nine years, from 1808 to 1817, the war of 1812, known as the second war for Independence was fought. Considerable excitement and interest was manifested by our people, and a number of men enlisted from town and the county. Among those whom I now recall who went to the war, were Mr. John App, Mr. John Ulrich, Mr. Frederick Richter, Captain John Snyder and William Gaugler. They marched away amidst the cries and lamentations of friends and neighbors. They belonged to Lt. Colonel George Weirick's regiment and were stationed at Marcus Hook.

Among my personal recollections of that war, was the advent of the mounted courier in our town to carry the news of the war. He was a little man named Baumgardner and rode a large bay horse. He was rigged out in a blood red suit, and when he entered the town he blew a la

he carried. He generally halted at Bradley's hotel, where he read in a squeaking voice, the war news which transpired since his last visit, this accomplished, he would again mount his charger and Sanco Panzo like ride away to other conquests. I well remember the last trip he made to Selin's Grove, the war was over, peace was declared, America was victorious, and the Courier celebrated the event by appearing in an entire new white suit.

[To be continued next week.]

From, *Tribune*

Selin's Grove Pa

Date, *Aug 21/96*

Snyder County in the Civil War.

CO. B., 6TH PA. RESERVES.

Though the Reserves under the gallant and intrepid McCall and his brave and efficient subordinates, Reynolds, Meade and Seymour, had demonstrated their ability to hold their position against any force of the enemy that could be advanced upon them from the direction of Mechanicsville, but the fact that Stonewall Jackson, with at least 30,000 troops, was hovering on the right flank and threatening the rear of McClellan's army, made the long retention of the position quite a serious matter. General McClellan after a careful investigation, in a report says:

"The position on Beaver Dam creek, although so successfully defended, had its right flank too much in the air, and was too far from the main army, to make it available to

retain it longer. I therefore determined to send heavy guns Hogan's and Gaines' houses on the Chickahominy during the night with as many of the wagons of the Fifth corps as possible, and to withdraw the corps itself to a position stretching around the bridge where its flanks would be reasonably secure, and it would be with supporting distance of the main army. General Porter carried out my orders to that effect.

"It was not advisable at the time, even had it been practicable to withdraw the Fifth corps to the right bank of the Chickahominy. Such a movement would have exposed the rear of the army, placed us within two fires, and enabled Jackson's fresh troops to interrupt the movement to the James river by crossing the Chickahominy in the vicinity of Jones' bridge, before we could reach Malvern hill with our trains. I determined then to resist Jackson with the Fifth corps, reinforced by all our disposable troops in the new position near the bridge heads, in order to cover the withdrawal of the trains and heavy guns, and to give time for the arrangements to secure the adoption of the James river as our line of supplies, in lieu of the Pamunkey.

"The greater part of the heavy guns and wagons had been removed to the right bank of the Chickahominy, the delicate operation of withdrawing the troops from Beaver Dam creek was commenced shortly before daylight, and successfully executed.

"Meade's and Griffin's brigades were the first to leave the ground; Seymour's brigade covered the rear with the horse batteries of Captains Robertson and Tidball; but the withdrawal was so skillful and gradual, and the repulse of the preceding day so complete, that although the enemy followed the retreat closely, and some skirmishing occurred, he did not appear in front of the new line in force till about noon of the 27th, when we were prepared to receive him."

In speaking of this falling back of

the Reserves, Mr. J. K. Sypher in his admirable history of the Pennsylvania Reserves, gives the following interesting account:

"The Reserves reluctantly withdrew from the position they had so nobly defended. They had spent half the night in replenishing their ammunition and cleaning their guns preparatory to another fight. The order to retire reached them while still at work, and before they had been refreshed by sleep. The preparations to withdraw consumed the remainder of the night, and at daylight the enemy opened fire from batteries that had been placed in front of Captain Cooper's battery, and in front of Seymour's brigade during the night. The attack was resisted with great spirit until nine o'clock in the morning, when the troops wore withdrawn, fighting as they retired. This was a movement, the successful execution of which would have added distinction to the veteran guard of a veteran army. Yet, General McCall, justly proud of his troops, says: 'Our killed had been buried, our wounded had been sent off by seven o'clock in the forenoon, on the 27th, and not a man, nor a gun, nor a musket was left upon the field. The regiments filed past as steadily as if marching from the parade ground.' General McCall had for many years been an officer in the regular army, had seen much active service, and had risen to the honorable position of inspector-general of the army of the United States; he was therefore a competent authority on the conduct and quality of troops. In their first great battle then, the Reserves won laurels that would have done honor to professional soldiers of any army in the world."

The troops had fallen back successfully to a new line constructed at Gaines' Mill. It had been determined to hold McCall's division in reserve, owing to the fact that the men had been under arms for three days, had fought the battle of Mechanicsville, had passed a sleepless night, and having fallen back into the new position after being

seriously harassed by the advancing column of the enemy.

In their new position the Reserves were formed in the following order: Meade's brigade was on the left near the Chickahominy; Reynold's brigade formed on the right covering the approaches to Cold Harbor and Dispatch station, and Seymour's brigade was placed still further in the rear as a reserve to the second line.

Shortly after noon the enemy's skirmisher's advanced upon the Union position, and the battle known in history as that of Gaines' Mill was on. The enemy made a determined assault upon General Fitz John Porter's command, and so desperate was this onslaught that this General was compelled to ask for reinforcements, not receiving them in time to be of assistance the first and third brigades of the Reserves were ordered up to support the left centre of the first line, and which was being hardly pressed.—The Reserves went into the contest with their accustomed dash, and the struggle became desperate. It was northern bravery against southern chivalry, and it was indeed a battle royal. Owing to the fierceness of the struggle and the formation of the ground, all regimental organization was destroyed, regiments were broken and companies crushed; in the language of a participant.—"Men fought side by side without reference to organization or commanders; regimental colors were disregarded, columns of men formed under the banner of the Nation and Nation, and charged the enemy wherever a commissioned officer led. Regiment after regiment of the Reserves were ordered up and sent into the thickest of the fight, whenever and wherever the line in front seemed to be the hardest forced by the enemy."

This engagement lasted until the close of the day and ended by the enemy withdrawing from the contest having been badly punished in front of the Reserves.

In this engagement General Reynold's was taken prisoner. About

...set he was returning from the right of the line, hearing the desperate contest waged by part of his command, rode to the front. He arrived there just as Syke's brigade gave way, causing the 11th Reserves and a New Jersey regiment to be surrounded. General Reynolds, his adjutant-general, Col. Kingsberry and an orderly, hid in the woods during the night, and on the following morning in attempting to make their way into the Union lines, they run into a patrolling party and were compelled to surrender.

Corporal Thomas Robison of "B" 6th Reserves was killed in this engagement, and was the first man killed in battle belonging to the company.

[To be continued next Issue.]

THE SALEM CHURCH.

The History of Its Erection By The Lutherans.

THE REFORMED PEOPLE GIVEN AN EQUAL
SHARE IN THE PROPERTY.

Special to the Courier.

IT seems that the first settlers through this vicinity were nearly all Lutherans, and having been accustomed to enjoy the privileges of Church and school, it was natural that their first desire and object would be, upon their settlement in this new country, to enjoy the same privileges here, and looking around for some suitable location for the building of a church and schoolhouse we do not wonder that all eyes turned instinctively to the spot where the building now stands, as of all others the most suitable for the purpose. Accordingly, after having been occasionally visited—by Revs. Enderline, Muhlenberg and Kurtz—who preached for them, baptized their children, and encouraged them to secure a suitable place to erect the first church on this side of the river—Melchor Stock and others made application for a tract of land of 92 acres, in trust for the Lutherans, for church and school, and on this application a warrant was issued, April 4, 1766, to have this tract surveyed, in trust for the Lutherans, an possession was taken of it by the Lutheran members, who were afterwards regularly organized into a congregation in 1775, and then the warrant was regularly taken out by Melchor Stock and others in trust in 1776.

THE FIRST CHURCH AND SCHOOLHOUSE.

The congregation proceeded at once to erect a log church and schoolhouse—the exact year when each of these buildings were erected the papers in the hands of the trustees does not fully show, but it was probably about 1780 that the church was built and the schoolhouse, no doubt, about the same time, on taking possession of the land, and used for preaching until the church was finished. It was one story with a loft, the west end was used for the school, with desks all around the walls, and the east end had a chamber and kitchen for the teacher.

The old log church stood just a short distance above the present schoolhouse, was 30 by 33 feet, and had a gallery on

From, Post
Middleburg R
Date, Apr 10. 1897

three sides, with a pulpit to the north. It held about 400 persons.

The first visiting ministers, who came only occasionally, were Revs. Enderline, Muhlenberg and Kurtz, but after a congregation had been regularly organized by Rev. Enderline in 1775, he became their regular pastor.

Although as the warrant had been taken out, in the beginning, in trust for the Lutherans alone, yet as the few Reformed families, who had settled in this locality had helped in building the log church and maintaining the congregation and worshipping with them, they were permitted to use the church free, when visiting Reformed ministers came to preach for them and baptise their children.

In the year 1802 the Lutherans united in a contract with the Reformed, and agreed to give them an equal share in the church lands with themselves, and after that the two congregations worshipped together in peace and harmony until the old log church became so dilapidated that it was no longer fit for service, and unsafe to worship in. It was also thought unwise to repair or remodel it. Up to this time, the warrant for the patent deed had not been taken out and the land paid for, so on the 12th of October, 1811, the members of both congregations assembled at the church and elected for trustees, George Miller, Lutheran, and Andrew Bergy, Reformed, whereupon the two trustees procured the patent deed for the land, and paid the purchase money with interest, amounting in all to \$32.64 for 92 acres of land. On the 13th of December, 1811, John Cochran, Secretary of the Land Office, gave the patent deed and title to George Miller and Andrew Bergy, trustees for the Lutheran and Calvinist congregations and their successors forever.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEW BRICK CHURCH.

Several difficulties were in the way, which had to be removed, before they could proceed. It was considered best to sell some of the land and apply that money to the building fund of the new church, and as it was necessary to have an act passed by the Assembly to do this, so on the 12th of March, 1812, such an act was presented, passed and signed by Governor Simon Snyder, authorizing and empowering the Elders and Trustees of the Lutheran and Calvinist congregations of Row's church to sell and convey, in fee simple, not exceed-

ing half the land or tract, belonging to the congregations of Row's church aforesaid, on which the present church now stands and to apply the money arising from the sale in building a new church or repairing the old one, in such manner as the trustees and elders saw fit.

By authority of this act, the trustees sold to John Moyer, on the 5th of September, 1812, 28 acres and 126 perches for \$76.65½, and on December 18, 1812, 15½ acres to Samuel Boyer, Jr., for \$522.31½, and September 8, 1815, to Adam Guth, 7 acres and 23 perches for \$281.76, all of which made 51 acres, 29 perches, and the whole amount realized, with interest until paid for the building of the new church, was \$1695.33. That was well done, when the whole of the 92 acres had originally only cost about \$5 00. On the 19th of December, 1812, a subscription was prepared and circulated payable to the building committee as soon as needed, and on the list \$725 00 was subscribed in money or work as soon as needed. A copy of this list is still well preserved. It was now discovered that a mistake had been made in the original survey of the church tract by the State Surveyor, and part of the graveyard was found to be on Samuel Hendricks' land of the adjoining farm, now owned by Enos Klingler, and as it was thought more suitable to build the church on the other side of the road, a tract of 1 acre, 142 2 10 perches had been granted to this congregation, reserving the right to bury therein. The war of 1812-14 now commenced delayed the work of the building, and little was done until the men returned from the war. In the spring of 1814 they went to work with a will. The congregations met and elected Jacob Schoch and George Gemberling a building committee with George Miller and Andrew Berger trustees of the church. The corner stone of the new brick church had been laid August 7, 1814, Rev. J. Conrad Walter, Lutheran pastor, and Rev. Isaac Gerhart, Reformed pastor. The collection amounted to \$77.39. The church was dedicated May 12, 1816. The collection was \$40.16. The whole cost was \$2614.18½.

The church having served its day, it has been decided to erect a new and more modern edifice this summer at the same place. Last Thursday the ground was staked off and no doubt ground will be broken this week. The present building committee consists of three Lutherans,

Samuel Maurer, Henry Moyer and Charles Miller; Reformed, Enos Klingler and Isaac Erdley. PENN.

**Most of the facts in above sketch were gleaned from the Church History compiled by Prof. D. S. Boyer and Rev. J. F. Wampole.

From, *Courier*
Freeburg p²
Date, *April 10 '97*

THE SALEM CHURCH

Prof. Geo. E. Fisher of Salem Gives Some Interesting Information Concerning This Historic Structure

The history of the Salem church, located at Salem, Sayder county, takes us back more than one hundred and thirty years, to a period when a dense forest covered most of our fertile valleys and when the Indian still claimed the possession of much of our land.

As early as April 4, 1766, a warrant was issued to have a certain tract of ninety-two acres surveyed by the state in trust of the Lutherans for church and school purposes, the application for the warrant having been made by a number of the early Lutheran settlers of these parts, among them Melehor Stock, whose family was cruelly massacred by a party of indians in 1761.

The first congregation organized here in 1775 was composed of Lutherans because most of the early settlers in the lower end of the Middle-creek Valley were German Lutherans, having come from the lower counties of the state. The few German Reformed families living in this neighborhood helped the Lutherans to build a log church and school house, the exact date of which is not known. It is probable that the first school house was built very soon after the warrant was taken out and that it was used for preaching until the log church was built, which was somewhere about 1780. This was

the first church built in this section of the state, being the first one built west of the Susquehanna river as far as is known.

The first regular pastor was Rev. Michael Enderlaine, who resided in Lykens Valley, but would occasionally come up here to preach to our forefathers. It was then that they could listen to the long discourses of several hours because of the long intervals between services.

Although the warrant for the church and school land was taken out in trust of the Lutherans alone, yet the Reformed families who had settled here aided in the building of the first church and helped to keep up the congregation, so in 1802 the Lutherans agreed to give the Reformed an equal share and interest in the church land and after that two congregations worshiped together in the same church until the building became delapidated and it was decided to build a new house of worship.

While the warrant for the land was taken out in 1766 the land was not paid for and the patent deed secured until Dec. 19, 1811. Thomas Mifflin was the Governor of our state. After securing full possession of the land the two congregations began to plan for the building of a church. It was thought expedient to sell off some of this tract of ninety-two acres and apply the proceeds toward defraying the cost of the new building. But before they could do this they had to get a permit from the state; accordingly such an act was presented and passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Simon Snyder March 20, 1812, "empowering the elders and trustees of the Lutheran and Calvinist congregations of Row's church, to sell and convey, in fee simple, not exceeding one half, of the land or tract, belonging to the congregations of Row's church aforesaid, on which land the church aforesaid now stands and to apply the money arising from the sale, in building a new church, or repair the old, in such manner, as the trustees and elders, for the time being, of both congregations, on a majority of them, may direct, as in and by said act, relation being thereunto had, will appear." By authority of this act the officers sold 51 acres, 29 perches for which they realized \$1695.33.

It was now discovered that a mistake had been made by the state surveyor in the original survey and accordingly part of the grave-yard was found to be on the land belong-

is the best known tavern in the county and has for half a hundred years been a well known rendezvous for the lawyers, judges, jurors, politicians, etcetera, and many eminent men have sat down to well cooked meals in its spacious halls. During court time this place is always crowded with the incoming citizens and for many years the seat of the President Judge of the Courts has been invariably preserved for that distinguished personage at the accustomed place, at the head of the table. It has in successive turns been occupied by such eminent jurists as Judges Wilson, Woods, Bucher and now by our own young and handsome McClure. "The King never dies" and the seat of the Judge is a successive and never perishing feature at his hotel. None but the Judge, whoever he may be, ever thinks of occupying it. Indeed it makes us think of a successive office and like some of the Crown's prerogatives, this seat is the Judge's royal place as if by prescription.

Our old and happy fathers who four times in a year came to the county seat to attend the sessions here met each other in pleasant conversation and were accustomed to enliven their reminiscences by the occasional sampling of the three cent and later what were called the "fip and a bit" whiskies. It was pure rum and as cheap as it was pure. The Fathers and the old type of rum are gone to that bourne from whence no traveler ever returns, but the old hotel still stands on its ancient site and is yet a famous place for the traveler to put up over night and have his horse fed.

Indeed Middleburgh is a picturesque old town filled with pleasant people and is worthy of some mention. It was called in the early days Swinefordstown, after John Swineford who owned the land upon which it was laid out, as early as 1800 and Mr. Swineford had a tavern here as early as 1787, or the year in

which the Federal Constitution was finally adopted by the United States Congress.

The old hotel on the corner known since "the memory of man runneth not to the contrary," as Smith's Tavern, is another celebrated resort for the traveler. A Hotel was erected on this site about a century ago and had its counterpart in the old Bower property recently torn down on the other opposite corner, to make way for a new bank building. This place known throughout the State in the dear stage coach days as The Weir House, on account of the famous rich and fine waffles which Grandmother Smith alone knew how to make for her guests.

It acquired, early in its existence a reputation as being one of the very best inland hotels at which a traveler could stop, and in the days when all the wheat from the western end of the county was transported by means of the Conestoga wagons with their great bow shaped boxes, to and when the herds of fat cattle were driven across the country to the markets from the west, this was one of the hotels greatly patronized. During the long and useful life of Grandmother Smith the high order of this place, never for a moment, was lost for a desire to get rich at the expense of guests and all who sought shelter under its substantial and homelike old roof went away perfectly satisfied with the gentle and comfortable care which this charming old lady always extended to her people. She was like a kind mother to them all.

General Simon Cameron frequently put up at this house, over night and for meals, when passing through on the coach, and as far back as the winter of 1887 the sub-editor heard the name of Grandmother Smith and the Weir House, while on a visit to his home in Harrisburg. The dear old lady is gone and so are her good waffles, but Will Smith now runs the house and is deter-

med to take as good care of the public as did his honored ancestral keeper of the old Hotel on the corner.

Graybill's Hotel in Franklin was erected about twenty years ago by David F. Kerstetter, who in turn sold it to Mr. Soph. Swineford and by his estate was maintained after his death until the executors sold it to the present proprietor, Mr. Graybill, who runs a first class house in every particular. It is located close to the railroad and easy of access from all points of travel.

Then there was a hotel for some time in what is known as the old Creamer property, next to Mr. Ash's mill. This was kept by Mr. Weyer whom our citizens yet remember as excellent hotel man and subsequently by Mr. Limbert who came from Centre county. This hotel was also run by Jacob G. Smith, some years ago.

There are traces yet visible of the hotel surroundings. The Hon. George Creamer, member of Congress owned this site.

and Father Wittenmyer is perhaps the oldest man living in town. He has a keen memory and a fine faculty of humor, and is yet strong and alert in all that concerns the activities of a career, rich with a successful experience. He is a fine gentleman of the old school and will give the "youngsters" pointers to the past. He is a man of decidedly vigorous type and force and represents a hale and rugged manhood which belongs to a past generation. It is a pleasure to listen to his sparkling narratives interspersed by humorous anecdotes, which he can relate in an inimitable manner.

His father, Michael Wittenmyer, erected on June first 1801, a dwelling house on the site where now Ex-Prothonotary Wittenmyer conducts the mercantile business and since that date this property has not been out of possession, or the name of the family. In December 1829, Mi-

chael Wittenmyer established store business here, in a building twenty-two by twenty-four feet, and his son Samuel worked for sixty three years continuously, in this store, in the conduct of the mercantile business. It is one of the very oldest places in the county used as a mercantile stand and in 1844 the present occupant of the site, Waldo Wittenmyer tore down the old buildings and erected the handsome store building and mansion now in use. Michael Wittenmyer died on the 29th day of July 1890, aged 78 years and his remains lie in the old Hassinger churchyard west of town.

From, Tribune
Sellingrove Ph
Date, Apr 3/96

SELIN'S GROVE IN THE LONG AGO.

The old "Mud" Dam.—The Indian and bush Tree.—The First Brick House.—The old Distillery.—Governor Simon Snyder's Election.—Courier Baumgardner.

Probably no part of the country embraced in the Borough limits has been more changed in appearance than is that in the vicinity of the Maine Mill. In my boyhood days before the canal was dug, the greater part of the water of Penn's creek flowed into the river at "Nigger Island, a dam being built there in order to furnish sufficient water for the Deering, (now Schure's) mill. Only a small portion of the water flowed down the channel now the creek, which was very narrow, and skirted on either side with button wood and water birch trees. When the canal was dug it was decided to change the channel of the creek, and the fill was made that will be remembered by your older readers as the "Mud" dam. This fill is at

ing to Samuel Hendricks. So a triangular piece of land containing two acres and twelve perches were secured from Hendricks and the new church was built on this addition.

Everything now seemed favorable to the erection of a new house of worship, the patent deed of the church property had been secured and given to "George Miller and Andrew Berger, trustees, in trust for the said Lutheran and Calvinist congregations, and their successors forever." land had been sold to the amount of more than half the cost of the new structure, but the war of 1812-14 now broke out and interfered with the project because many of the strong were obliged to shoulder the musket and hasten to the frontier in defense of our nation and in so doing were defending their own homes and their own church.

A building committee having been selected, composed of George Miller, Andrew Berger, George Gemberling and Jacob Schoch, work was begun in earnest in the spring of 1814. A "Kirchen" Ordnung was now drawn up which was to be a guide in the performance of the various duties of the members of the different congregations, which was adopted at the corner-stone laying August 7th, 1814. This has ever since continued to be the rules and regulations of the two congregations. Article 1, gives the name, "This Salem church shall be and remain a German Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed church". The name Salem was given to the new, brick structure, the old, log church was called Row's. The old constitution, as we may call it, needs revision as is seen in articles which have long since become obsolete. Article 2, reads, "That the members of the church councils shall be obligated to make provision for a German school master, and occasionally visit the same and endeavor to maintain the same in a good condition. The school master, who lives on the church property, shall serve the congregations of both religious parties, on Sundays, without compensation, for the use of it." The school management has long since been assumed by the state in providing for the public schools.

The present church has stood for eighty-one years. It was a substantial structure and received very little attention during all these years. It is 36 by 42 feet and seats about four hundred, yet on special occasions more than five hundred people could be accommodated. It contains three galleries on the east, south and west sides, with the pulpit on the north.

The church must have been a grand structure in its time and was doubtless the pride of the whole community. While externally it presents a very modest appearance, yet on the interior are found some of the most delicate carvings, the pannels, pillars and pulpit have been grooved and finished with the best skill of the day.

In 1891 the Tri-Quarto Centennial of its erection was celebrated with appropriate services. At that time Prof. D. S. Boyer of Freeburg and Rev. Jacob F. Wampole, Lutheran pastor of the Freeburg charge, prepared a history of the Salem church in connection with that of the other churches in this charge, to which I am indebted for much of the information given above.

All who helped to build the dear old church have gone to their reward. She alone has outlived them all. Although presenting a worn appearance and having become dilapidated with age, and even pronounced unsafe for large crowds for several years, yet it seemed the people could hardly think of tearing down the old structure about which cluster so many hallowed memories and in which nearly three generations have received the spiritual bread from Heaven.

But the old church must go, it has well served its high purpose. The two congregations have resolved to build a new house of God on the site of the old building. The Lutherans and Reformed have worshiped together at this place in peace and harmony for more than a century and it is to be hoped that the new union church of 1897 will be built in the same energetic and harmonious spirit which characterized the erection of the old log church of 1780 and the old brick church of 1816

From, *Post*

Middleburgh Pa

Date, *Sept 7, 1898*

Schoch Family Re-union.

Upwards of three hundred members of the Schoch Family gathered in the grove at Kreamer, Snyder County, Pa., on Wednesday, August 24, 1898, to hold their first family Re-union. Representatives from eight different states of the Union were present, viz: Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Missouri; Kansas, Nebraska and Texas.—A permanent organization was effected with the following officers:

Jacob Schoch, of Philadelphia, Pres.; Ira C. Schoch, Selin's Grove, Secretary; Henry Schoch, Selin's Grove, Treas.; Allen Beyer, of Chicago, Ill., and Ira C. Schoch, Historians.

An executive committee was elected consisting of the President, Secretary and Treasurer, together with Mr. Floyd Schoch of St. Louis, Mo. and Mr. Leonard Schoch of East Leesport, Pa. It was decided to hold next Reunion sometime in 1899.

The meeting was called to order by Ira C. Schoch, of Selin's Grove, the Secretary of "The Matthias Schoch Family Association." Rev. W. H. Schoch, of New Berlin, then offered a fervent prayer, after which Secretary Schoch spoke substantially as follows, giving as near as it was possible to do a history of the family:

It is not our purpose to-day to give you a connected history of the Schoch Family as it is represented in America. To do this would require more time and research than we have been able to give to this subject. We have endeavored to do the best we could. Have no doubt there are many errors. If there are any persons in this gathering who are able to correct such we hope they will do so before leaving here. For some years the question of a family association and the making of research into family history in some systematic and connected way has been discussed by different members of the direct line of Matthias Schoch, but has never reached any definite form.

In the beginning of the year 1897 the officers and members of the Lutheran and Reformed congregations of Salem, Snyder Co., Pa., determined to build a new church edifice upon the site of the old brick church. As our blessings only become valuable when they are given to dis-

appear, so this old church building grew in value in the eyes and minds of the congregation when they realized that its historic walls were doomed to destruction. Many interesting events had occurred within its walls, and much that was dear to the hearts of the people of that locality clustered around that spot. I say to the people of this locality, but I realize that in this I am too narrow, as many have gone from here and are located all over the land, whose eyes and minds will often return to the place that gave them birth, with tender recollections, the younger generations have grown up who refer with untold interest to the land of their fathers. Surely no couplet of the poet's creation has ever borne more truth in its rhythm than

"Lives there a man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said:
This is my own, my native land."

Upon research being made into the origin of the church it was found that John Schoch, with others, was instrumental in securing the original patent for the land in 1776; that Matthias Schoch, together with his family, were members of the congregation and contributors toward the erection of the original log church which was built soon after, and that when early in the nineteenth century this log church became untenable and a new building was necessary, Jacob Schoch was appointed and served as one of the building committee, himself and wife being members of the congregation. His family, with a numerous contingent or the same name, being also members of the congregation, while up to the present time there always been descendants of the line active in all the work of the church.

The members of the building committee, who have put up the present handsome edifice, suggested that it would be a proper and fitting tribute to the Schoch family, in its local and church connection, to have some memorial placed in the new edifice. The idea was a good one and caught the feeling of some of the name in and about the vicinity. Accordingly, at the suggestion of Messrs. Franklin J. and Henry Schoch, a preliminary meeting was called at the office of Ira C. Schoch, in Selin's Grove, Pa., June 31, 1897, when the following persons were present: Messrs. F. J. Henry, Geo. J. and Ira C. Schoch, Mrs. L. E. Pawing and Mrs. B. F. Wagenseller. A temporary organization was formed and circulars ordered printed and sent out to all of the name in the immediate neighborhood to call a meeting Aug. 14, 1897. Pursuant to the call a permanent organization was formed to be known as "The Matthias Schoch Family Association." It was then determined to place in the new edifice being erected at Salem, Snyder Co., Pa., a "Schoch Memorial Window." The following committee was appointed, viz: Henry Schoch, Selin's Grove; Michael and G. Alfred Schoch, Middleburg; James Schoch, New Berlin; Henry Cook, Vicksburg, and Ira C. Schoch, Selin's Grove. This committee was authorized to select a design, contract for the window and attend to all necessary business connected therewith. Various designs were presented from which selection was made and the window placed in the south wall of the church, the most prominent one in the edifice. The design is considered by all who have seen it, as a very handsome one, representing the Ascension. The inscription reads as follows:

IN MEMORIAM.
Matthaeus Schoch.
Germania, America.
Dec. 16, 1776. May 10, 1812.
Founder of the Family.

His son,
Jacob Schoch and wife, Elizabeth Hendricks.
May 14, 1772. July 13, 1776.
Dec. 10, 1850. July 13, 1871.
By Their Descendants.

The Matthias Schoch Association, feeling that as the name was scattered over so many districts of the Keystone State, as well as throughout the whole Union, it would be a commendable project to gather together as many as possible in a family reunion, in order that the genealogical connection of the various representatives might be compiled and be preserved, and that the bond of the brotherhood, though proverbially strong, might by such a union be more thoroughly cemented. They accordingly, by resolution, resolved to hold a family reunion on August 24, 1898. A circular letter was prepared and sent wherever one of the name or connection was found. Your Secretary and the committee made every effort to reach all representatives of the name, but we realize that we have failed in a large measure, as daily up to the present date we have received names from all portions of our own and many other States of the Union. We hope by another year our organization may, by careful management, become so efficient and widespread that we may reach all of the name and blood all over this broad land. We desire that the spirit of brotherhood, which has ever been strong in this particular line, and which we know is just as strong in other lines of the blood, may mingle in one grand common stream, flowing on and on, uniting each branch and line until none may be left out, thus completing the perfect family circle.

It is due the Matthias Schoch Family Association, and particularly his descendants through the line of his son, Jacob, in that by their effort we are here to-day for the enjoyment of this social gathering upon the original tract of land which our ancestor Matthias Schoch took up, Aug. 5, 1776, surveyed in pursuance of his warrants dated June 4, 1762, and April 23, 1773, just 126 years ago, that we give them some historical facts such as we have been able to gather, though we hope to add much which is still wanting along their direct line. Those who may not be direct, we hope, bear with us a little while.

Matthias Schoch was born in Alsace Lorraine, that much-disputed corner of Switzerland, Dec. 16 1828. He came to America in the ship "Albany," Robert Brown, master, landing in Philadelphia, September 2, 1749. We find that on the same vessel among the list of passengers are recorded the names of John and Valentine Schoch. We have been informed through family tradition that Matthias Schoch was sold to serve a redemption period of six years to pay his passage. Family legend also says he came with his brothers, George and John, and two sisters. One of his sisters married a Mr. Spangler, the other to a Mr. Saltzgiwer, both reported to have been of the Tulpehocken district, Berks Co., Pa. Matthias, himself, is said to have first settled here and that he moved to this location, then Penns township, Cumberland Co., about the year 1760, and that he acquired his first lands by trading a gun to a native Indian chief. Whether this be correct or not we cannot vouch, but

he was known to have always been on friendly terms with the red men. At the time of the great runaway, July, 1778, he was warned by a friendly Indian chief coming to his home after nightfall and urging him to take his family away, as he, the chief, could no longer be responsible for the actions of his people. Matthias and his family were thus saved the dire consequences which befell some of his more luckless neighbors. The Stuck Massacre occurred just above this place. He took up his first tract of publicland, called "Brantree," of 78 acres, surveyed on application, entered in the land office August 5, 1766, and another called "Pennsburg" of 233 acres, 121 perches, with allowances of 6 per cent. on both tracts, surveyed in pursuance of two warrants and dated June 4, 1762, and then took but the patent deed for the whole 306 acres June 29, 1790, paying 15 pounds and 12 shillings for the first and 51 pounds and 17 shillings for the second tract, that including interest from the time the application was made for the warrant. He located his home just west of the little village above us, now known as Smithgrove, on the south side of the public road and near where the old log fort still stands. This fort is erroneously published in "The Forts of Pennsylvania" as the Hendricks fort. The fort was built by Matthias Schoch as a refuge from attacks by the Indians and is a low log building with heavy plank floors of eight-inch thickness about seven feet from the ground with two small openings in the second story, 8x12 inches on the north side, with only an entrance from the outside to the second story; the lower part of this building being used as a place of storage. This land was never in the possession of the Hendricks family. It remained the property of Matthias Schoch until 1816, when it became the property of his son, Michael Schoch, who, in 1813 sold to — Roush, who, in 1834 sold to Chas. Keek, who has been the owner from that time to the present day, proving conclusively the error in its being called the "Hendricks" fort. Further, the west tract was taken up by Peter Godshalk, while west of this tract was the original Hendricks tract. It is unfortunate that matters of family history should be thus erroneously recorded, proving that as a family we have been too careless in the preservation of records.

Matthias Schoch was twice married and had eleven children. Two died in infancy. First wife's maiden name we have not been able to learn. Her given name was Margaret. She died in 1785. By this marriage had five sons and one daughter, viz: John, Henry, Michael, Peter, Jacob and Catherine. Second wife's maiden name, Catherine Lips. By this marriage had five sons and one daughter, viz: Daniel, George and Rebecca.

We give the lines as nearly as we can at this time. John Schoch, born May 2, 1766; married Catherine Swartz; had children, John Peter, married Barbara Bressler; Matthias, married Nancy Yost; children, Samuel, Malinda, Hannah; balance of family gone to Ohio; at present have no information about them.

Henry Schoch married Christina —, went to Pickaway Co., Ohio, about 1798; have no data.

Catherine Schoch, married John Row; went to Pickaway Co., Ohio; have no data.

Michael Schoch, born at Kreamer, Snyder Co. Pa., June 20, 1769; died at Mifflinburg, Union Co., Pa., Nov. 19, 1853; was twice married; first marriage to Ann Books; children, Catherine, Leah, Elizabeth, George, Samuel, Susan and Lydia; second marriage to Lydia Dreesse; no children.

Peter Schoch, born at Fremont, Snyder Co., Pa., Oct. 5, 1789; died at Stouchtown, Berks Co., April 11, 1866; married Elizabeth Seibert; children, Michael P., Jacob, George, John, Margaret, Catherine, Elizabeth, one son and one daughter died in infancy.

George Schoch, born June 15, 1789; died July 9, 1845; married Margaret Seibert; children, George, Susan, Michael, Elizabeth, William, Benjamin, Charles, Margaret and Catherine.

Daniel Schoch, married Mary — prior to 1819; moved to Riley township, Sandusky Co., Ohio, in 1836; children, 11, have only names of four, Henry, William, Edward and Mary Ann.

Rebecca Schoch, married George Barger; lived in Columbia Co., Pa.; moved to Seneca Co., Ohio.

Jacob Schoch, born at Kreamer, Snyder Co., Pa., May 14, 1772; died at New Berlin, Union Co., Pa., Dec. 13, 1850; married Elizabeth Hendricks, born in Chester Co., Pa., July 13, 1776; died at New Berlin, July 13, 1832.

George, born March 23, 1796; died Aug. 15, 1877; married Elizabeth Yoder; children, Alfred, died single, Harriet, married George Hilbish.

Catherine Schoch, born July 5, 1797; died in 1803.

Michael Schoch, born May 15, 1799; died Jan. 11, 1894; married Rosanna Klose; children, Emanuel, Angeline and Michael.

Jacob Schoch, born Feb. 18, 1801; died Jan. 17, 1853; married Catherine Miller; children, William, Matilda, Henry, George J., Elizabeth, Susan, Maria and John.

Elizabeth Schoch, born March 31, 1803; died —; married Philip Gross; children, Henry, George, Phoebe, Anne, Jacob, Jane, Elizabeth, Susan and Laura.

Sem Schoch, born Oct. 7, 1805; died July 6, 1887; twice married; first wife, Hester Klose; children, Susan, Charles, Elizabeth, Caroline, Louisa, Savilla, James and Anne; second wife, Margaret Ruhl; Jacob, Jane and Armintha.

John Schoch, born Jan. 5, 1808; died Dec. 15, 1863; married Lydia Houtz; children, Franklin J., Elizabeth, David, Catherine, Ada, John, Calvin, Ammon Z., Silas, Ira C., Cacella, Harvey H. and George Hendricks.

Catherine Schoch born Oct. 26, 1809; died Sept. 25, 1883; married George Snyder; children Jerry, Elizabeth, Emma, Louisa, Samuel, Jacob and William.

Abraham Schoch, born Oct. 30, 1811; died March 19, 1881; married Hannah Seebold; children, Martin L. and Ella.

David Schoch, born July 27, 1813; died —; twice married; first wife, Harriet Pawling; one son, Allen; second wife, Maria Pawling; two sons, Sepharus and Gellard.

Mary Schoch, born Oct. 31, 1815; still living and with us here to-day; married Bader Cooke; children, Henry, Allen, Jane and Emma.

Benjamin Schoch, born Jan. 19, 1819; died

—; married Margaret Bright; children Elizabeth, Abigail, Joana, Beber, Margaret and Emma.

Susanna Schoch, born Jan. 16, 1821; still living and with us here to-day; married Rev. J. P. Anspach; children, Gellard and Jennie.

This completes the list of children and grand-children in the line of Jacob Schoch, the great grand-children of Matthias Schoch, as far as your Secretary has been able to get them up to the present time. We hope to complete the list and extend the line in its entirety before our next meeting.

We feel that this synopsis is very crude and that much remains to be collected and arranged. With the best wishes for the success of our Association and hope that in its workings the various family lines may be brought into still closer connection and that you each individually may have a prosperous and happy voyage down the stream of life to its last and final uniting with the great and unknown beyond. We wish you God-speed and good-bye.







